

Volume 1, Issue 3

January 2003

DPC Newsletter

Delta Protection Commission Celebrates Ten-Year Anniversary

The Delta Protection Commission, created by State legislation in 1992, held its very first meeting at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove on Friday, January 29, 1993.

The Commission and its staff invite you to join in the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Commission's first meeting. An informal gathering will be held at Giusti's, a historic bar and restaurant in Walnut Grove, before the Commission's January 23, 2003 meeting. Hors d'oeuvres, iced tea, and coffee will be served; there will also be a no-host bar. The cost is \$12 per person. For more information or to get directions to Giusti's, please call (916) 776-2290.

R S V P

(916) 776-2290

by January 16, 2003

DATE: *Thursday, January 23, 2003*

TIME: *5:00—6:30 p.m.*

PLACE: *Giusti's Place, 14743 Walnut Grove-Thornton Road*

COST: *\$12 (cash accepted at the door, or check payable to Margit Aramburu)*

CALFED to Host Second Biennial Science Conference

If you have an interest in finding out about the latest advances in science and restoration in the Bay-Delta and its watershed, you might want to attend the upcoming CALFED Science Conference, scheduled for January 14—16, 2003 at the Sacramento Convention Center. The Science Conference will provide a forum for presenting scientific information and ideas relevant to the

CALFED Bay-Delta Program's goals and objectives for the Bay-Delta and its watershed. The goal of this conference, which is open to the public, is to make new information available to the broad community of scientists, engineers, and managers working on CALFED-related issues.

The conference program will feature both oral and poster presentations related to several broad themes, including, but not limited to:

- Exotic species in the Bay, Delta, and watershed;
- Responses of terrestrial and aquatic species to habitat restoration;
- Structure and function of flooded-island habitats, and implications for ecosystem restoration in the Delta;
- Advances in anadromous salmonid research and restoration;
- Water storage options in the Bay-Delta watershed; and
- Delta levees as restoration tools.

Of particular interest to the Delta Protection Commission and its staff is getting an understanding of what the investment in the various CALFED-funded projects over the past seven years tells us about the success of the program to date, and implications for the future of Delta restoration activities under that program.

The three-day CALFED Science Conference will be held January 14, 15, and 16 at the Sacramento Convention Center, located at 13th and J Streets in Sacramento. Presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m. on all three days, with poster sessions/receptions from 4-7 p.m. on January 14 and 15.

The cost to attend the CALFED Science Conference is \$125 for all three days (includes 3 lunches, 2 receptions, and Abstract Book); \$50 for students (a valid student ID is required at registration on the first day of the conference). One could also attend the conference for one day (January 14, 15, or 16), which includes lunch and an Abstract Book, for \$35.

Detailed information about the CALFED Science Conference, including a finalized program of topics and presentations to occur on each day, can be found at

<http://iep.water.ca.gov/calfed/sciconf/2003/>.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Delta Protection Commission** Thursday, January 23, 2003, 6:30 p.m.
- **DPC Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee** — Tuesday, February 4, 2003, 1-4 p.m.
- **DPC Agriculture Committee** Thursday, February 20, 2003, 2-4 p.m.

All meetings are held at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove. Please call (916) 776-2290 if you need directions.

Delta Protection Commission to Consider Annual Reports

DPC Annual Report to the Legislature

Under the Delta Protection Act of 1992, the Commission is mandated to submit an annual report to the Legislature, describing the Commission's activities during the previous year, the status of the Commission's *Regional Land Use Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta*, and the effectiveness of that plan in carrying out the Commission's mission to preserve, enhance, and protect, in balance, the agricultural, recreational, and wildlife uses of the Delta.

The draft annual report for 2002, which will be considered by the Commission at its January 23, 2003 meeting, contains information on the Commission's activities in 2002. This draft document is available from the Commission's website, www.delta.ca.gov, under the January 2003 meeting announcement, as is the staff report on lands and easements acquired in the Delta Primary Zone in 2002. Once the Commission makes any changes and approves the annual report, it will be sent to the Legislature and the finalized version will be posted as a separate link on the Commission website.

If you would like to request a hard copy of the final DPC annual report, please call (916) 776-2290, or e-mail lorldpc@citlink.net.

DPC Annual Report on Land and Easement

Acquisitions in the Delta Primary Zone

Commission staff maintains a report on the acres of land in the Delta Primary Zone that have been acquired in fee title by public and non-profit entities, as well as acres that have been protected by conservation and agricultural easements. Staff updates this report annually; the report contains both cumulative information on all acreages acquired or protected since 1993, and information on new acquisitions and easements that occurred over the course of the previous year.

The staff report indicates that public and nonprofit land ownership in the Primary Zone has increased from 35,191 acres to 82,871 acres since 1993. Also, in 2002, nearly 6,000 acres of private lands were put under agricultural or habitat conservation easement, bringing the total Primary Zone acreage under easement to 11,717 acres.

These staff reports are available from the Commission's website for 2001 and 2002 (from the links for the January meetings). For hard copies of these and past reports, call (916) 776-2290 or e-mail lorldpc@citlink.net.

DFG Seeks Input on Delta Land Use and Ownership Document

As part of CALFED's effort to implement its Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP), area-specific ecosystem restoration plans are being issued for CALFED's various "ecozones".

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has issued, for public review and comment, a draft report documenting land use and public land ownership in the Delta; this report will become a part of the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan that CALFED is developing to guide habitat restoration in the Delta area.

The draft report contains information and maps on designated land uses (from local government General Plans), land cover (from 1993 Landsat imagery), and existing public and private land ownership.

This draft report is available online at www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/erpdeltaplan/. It is also available from the CALFED website (click on "Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan" under the What's New bar on the right side of the page). Comments on the document may be submitted either by addressing correspondence to DFG's Ecosystem Restoration Unit, 4001 North Wilson Way, Stockton, CA 95205, or electronically via a link at the bottom of the aforementioned web page.

DFG will be accepting public comments on this document until March 1, 2003.

DPC Job Opportunity: Seeking Staff Services Analyst

Do you know someone who's currently on the State of California's Staff Services Analyst list, who's ready for a challenging career with a State agency, with the quiet charm of a rural work environment? Well, the Delta Protection Commission may have just the job for them!

Due to the pending retirement of the Commission's present Staff Services Analyst, Karen Morais, at the end of February 2003, the Commission is looking to hire a fresh face to greet the modest traffic through its Walnut Grove office and assist in the Commission's administrative activities. Duties would include maintenance of the Commission's list of projects pending in the Delta area, mailing lists, and commissioner files; drafting routine correspondence on proposed projects; monitoring legislation of interest; assisting in the set-up of regular meetings (every other month) and preparing meeting minutes; and other administrative duties as assigned. Details on the position are available from the Commission's website, www.delta.ca.gov.

If you know of someone who is eligible and interested in applying for this position, they would need to submit a standard State application to State Lands Commission's Personnel Office, 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South, Sacramento, CA 95825. The final filing date for this position is Wednesday, January 29, and interviews will be held in mid-late February 2003.

And Speaking of Fresh Faces ...

The Delta Protection Commission will soon have a few of its own!

In light of changes in local government representation from the November 2002 elections and other developments, several Commissioners will be vacating their positions on the Commission:

Former Solano County Supervisor **Skip Thompson** has assumed his position as Solano County's Assessor, and will be replaced by whomever the Governor appoints to fill his Supervisor position;

Former San Joaquin County Supervisor **Lynn Bedford** has been replaced by new Supervisor **Leroy Ornellas**;

DWR Chief Deputy Director **Steve Macaulay** has announced he will be accepting a position as Executive Director of California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) at the end of February 2003, and will be replaced by another designee from DWR; and

Former Assemblymember and Commission Ex-Officio Member **Helen Thomson** assumed her position on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, so the Assembly will need to appoint a new Ex-Officio Member.

Sincere appreciation is expressed for those who have served the Commission, and best wishes for them in their future endeavors!

New Boating Laws Take Effect

There have been some changes in California boating law effective January 1, 2003, due to legislation passed in 2002. Some changes of note for Delta boaters:

The passage of AB 2362 (Canciamilla) authorizes a State or local peace officer who reasonably suspects that a vessel is discharging sewage in an area where the discharge is prohibited to board that vessel, if the owner or operator is aboard, for the purpose of inspecting the marine sanitation device for proper operation and placing a dye tablet in the holding tank.

The passage of AB 2005 (Nakano) requires a person convicted of any moving violation in the Harbors and Navigation Code, the Federal Rules of the Road and regulations adopted by Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), while operating a vessel, to complete and pass a boating safety course approved by DBW. Previously, only some moving violations resulted in this requirement.

These are just two changes in boating law with implications for those who recreate in the Delta and other areas of the State; for information on other changes in law related to boating, go to DBW's website: www.dbw.ca.gov/law03.htm.